

# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

**TITLE:** First Level Commitment Examination Waiver Pilot Project

**ISSUE DATE:** December 1, 2003

**REQUESTING AGENCY:** North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of MH/DD/SAS  
3014 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-3001

Direct all inquiries concerning this RFA to: Steven E. Hairston, Planning Team Leader  
NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental  
Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services  
3014 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-3014  
(919) 733-7011 Phone  
steven.hairston@ncmail.net

## INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (MH/DD/SAS) is soliciting applications from phase-one local management entities (LME's) to participate as pilot sites eligible to waive certain requirements of the mental health commitment statutes to further mental health reform efforts.

## BACKGROUND

The passage of Session Law 2001-437 initiated the first major reform of North Carolina's public system for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities and addiction disorders in more than thirty years. In order to further reform efforts the General Assembly enacted H.B. 883 which authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, under certain circumstances, to waive the requirements of G.S. 122C-261 through G.S. 122C-263 and G.S. 122C-281 through G.S. 122C-283 pertaining to initial (first-level) examinations by a physician or eligible psychologist of individuals meeting the criteria of G.S.122C-261 (a) or G.S. 122C-281 (a).

This Request for Applications (RFA) is extended to offer up to five phase-one local management entities an opportunity to participate in this waiver as pilot sites. The local management entity through its application must demonstrate how it will meet the requirements for participation and selection outlined in the scope of work. Participation in the waiver shall not exceed three years, or the period for which the requesting local management entity's business plan is approved, whichever is shorter.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

Upon submission of the application and approval by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, a local management entity may substitute for a physician or eligible psychologist, a licensed clinical social worker, a masters level psychiatric nurse or a masters level certified clinical addictions specialist to conduct the initial (first-level) examination of individuals meeting the criteria of G.S. 122C-261 (a) or G.S. 122C-281 (a).

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria. The application must specifically describe (a) how the purpose of the statutory requirement would be better served by waiving the requirement and substituting the proposed change under the waiver; (b) how the waiver will enable the local management entity to improve the delivery or management of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services; (c) how the services to be provided by the licensed clinical social worker, the masters level psychiatric nurse, or the masters level certified addictions specialist under the waiver are within each of these professional's scope of practice; and (d) how the health, safety and welfare of the individuals will continue to be at least as well protected under the waiver as under the statutory requirement. In addition, the local management entity shall provide an assurance that a physician is available at all times to provide backup support to include telephone consultation and face-to-face evaluation if necessary.

In no event shall substitution of a licensed clinical social worker, masters level psychiatric nurse, or masters level certified clinical addiction specialist under this waiver pilot program be construed as authorization to expand the scope of practice of the licensed clinical social worker, masters level psychiatric nurse, or masters level certified clinical addiction specialist.

Eligibility to participate in the waiver pilot is limited to no more than five local management entities that have been designated as phase-one entities as of July 2, 2003. The waiver granted by the Secretary shall be in effect for a period not to exceed three years, or the period for which the requesting local management entity's business plan is approved, whichever is shorter.

## **The Procurement Process**

The application shall consist of no more than five single spaced pages, including attachments. Applications shall be mailed to Steven E. Hairston, 3014 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-3014 and must be received by the close of business December 31, 2003. Successful applicants will be notified by January 15, 2004.

## **APPLICATION COVER PAGE**

### **Request for Applications**

### **First Level Commitment Examination Waiver Pilot Project**

Name of Area/County Program:	
Application Contact Person:	
Contact Person Phone Number:	
Contact Person E-Mail Address:	
Date of Application Submission:	

In response to the RFA issued by the Division of Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services on December 1, 2003, the attached application is submitted. In addition to the attached submission, I hereby agree or attest to the following stipulations related to the RFA:

1. In no event shall substitution of a licensed clinical social worker, masters level psychiatric nurse, or masters level certified clinical addiction specialist under this waiver pilot program be construed as authorization to expand the scope of practice of the licensed clinical social worker, masters level psychiatric nurse, or masters level certified clinical addiction specialist.
2. A physician shall be available at all times to provide backup support to include telephone consultation and face-to-face evaluation if necessary.
3. The area or county program will work jointly with DMHDDSAS staff to design an evaluation protocol for evaluating the effectiveness of this waiver pilot project and to submit the necessary evaluation data.
4. Staff will participate in training specified by DMHDDSAS to perform the functions identified in the waiver pilot project.

Submit application by December 31, 2003 to: Steven Hairston, Planning Team Leader  
DMHDDSAS  
3014 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-3014  
Phone: (919) 733-7011  
E-mail: [steven.hairston@ncmail.net](mailto:steven.hairston@ncmail.net)

Area/County Program Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)